

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194236

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE: KNBROWN
APPROVED BY EUR/EE: TPHDUNLOP
CU/EE: PHACKER (DRAFT)
----- 084614
P 152019Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OEXC, CPRS, CZ (PAGE, BENJAMIN)

SUBJECT: IREX SCHOLAR

1. MR. BENJAMIN B. PAGE, ONE OF THE IREX NOMINEES FOR CSSR THIS YEAR, HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REGARDING HIS WIFE'S SON'S STATUS VIS-A-VIS THE CZECH AUTHORITIES.

2. PAGE MARRIED A CZECH NATIONAL IN 1967, AND SHE AND HER YOUNG SON BY A FORMER MARRIAGE WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE. THE BOY'S NATURAL FATHER, WHO REMAINED IN CSSR, PROVIDED PAGE WITH DOCUMENTARY AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT THE BOY, WHICH PAGE THUS FAR HAS NOT DONE. THE MOTHER AND THE BOY HAVE BOTH REMAINED CZECH CITIZENS, AND VISITED CSSR IN 1973 ON A CZECH PASSPORT WITH NO PROBLEMS. THE BOY IS NOW OLD ENOUGH TO BE REQUIRED TO HAVE HIS OWN CZECH PASSPORT, WHICH CANNOT BE ISSUED BY THE CZECH EMBASSY HERE IN TIME FOR THE PAGES' SCHEDULED DEPARTURE (SEPTEMBER 1). PAGE IS NOW TRYING TO GET A CZECH TEMPORARY TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR THE BOY, WHO WOULD THEN APPLY FOR A NEW PASSPORT IN PRAGUE.

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IREX HAS INFORMED THE CZECH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION THAT

PAGE WILL ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 2.

3. PAGE IS NOW CONCERNED THAT AS THE BOY APPROACHES

MILITARY AGE (HE WAS BORN JANUARY 1959) HE MAY BE REQUIRED AS A CZECH CITIZEN TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY AND SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES. PAGE ALSO NOTES THERE IS A SMALL POSSIBILITY THAT THE BOY'S NATURAL FATHER MAY CHANGE HIS MIND AND TRY TO RECALL HIS EARLIER DECISION TO PERMIT ADOPTION, THUS CREATING AT LEAST A TEMPORARY OBSTACLE TO THE BOY'S RETURN NEXT YEAR TO THE US. PAGE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY INS THAT THE BOY IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR US CITIZENSHIP IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND IT IS PROBABLY TOO LATE FOR HIM TO COMPLETE ADOPTION PROCEDURES FOR THE BOY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED PAGE THAT HIS SON'S DEPARTURE FROM CSSR COULD INDEED BE HELD UP BY ANY LEGAL ACTION THE NATURAL FATHER MIGHT CARE TO INITIATE IN THE CZECH COURTS -- WHILE THE COURTS MIGHT ULTIMATELY FIND FOR PAGE, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN CSSR COULD BE LENGTHY, DRAWN OUT AND PERHAPS INFLUENCED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATION PAGE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT HIS ADOPTION OF THE BOY MIGHT HELP SWAY ANY FINAL JUDGEMENT BUT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY WARD OFF THE INITIATION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BY THE FATHER.

5. PAGE WAS INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REQUEST GUIDANCE ASAP FROM THE EMBASSY ON THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED. SPECIFICALLY, DOES THE EMBASSY CONCUR IN THE ADVICE GIVEN PAGE (PARAGRAPH 4), CAN THE EMBASSY GAUGE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE BOY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN AND SERVE IN THE CZECH ARMED FORCES, AND WOULD THE EMBASSY RECOMMEND THAT THE BOY NOT TRAVEL TO CSSR WITH THE PAGES?

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE194236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KNBROWN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750283-0490
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750847/aaaabpma.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IREX SCHOLAR
TAGS: OEXC, CPRS, CZ, (PAGE, BENJAMIN)
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006